

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 26 has been added. Claims 13-22 and 25-26 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 13-16 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okuda et al. (U.S. Patent 5,963,280) in view of Oyama et al. (U.S. Patent 5,808,708) and further in view of Kurematsu et al. (U.S. Patent 5,816,677).

Using independent claim 13 as an example, this claim recites "a prismatic light control member provided with a great number of pairs of first and second slopes to control directivity of output illumination light is disposed along said second emission face so that said first slopes mainly receive light from said first primary light source and said second slopes mainly receive light from said second primary light source."

In the present office action, the rejection includes the newly cited reference to Kurematsu et al. Specifically, the Examiner relies upon FIG. 18 of this reference as teaching the first slopes receiving light from the first primary light source, and the second slopes receiving light from the second primary light source.

FIG. 18 of this reference teaches a prism sheet 31 having a plurality of ridges. Depending on the incident angle of the light on the ridge, the light may pass in one of two ways. First, the light may pass through a first ridge and then be reflected by a second ridge opposite the first ridge, as in the right-most beam of FIG. 18 of Kurematsu et al. Second, the light may pass through the first ridge and proceed to the crystal panel P without being reflected by the opposite ridge, as in the beam which is second from the right in FIG. 18. FIG. 18 illustrates an equal occurrence of these light propagation paths. Thus, one ridge does not appear to "mainly" receive light from a particular one of the light sources 1. Furthermore, the rear reflection plate 10 has a projecting or rising center in the middle so that light from the left light source 1 does not reach the ridges on the right side of the prism sheet 31.

The prism sheet 31 shown in Fig. 18 of Kurematsu et al. has a plurality of ridges each of which has a pair of slopes effecting light redirection. However, the ridges are divided into two groups, right side group and left side group. Every ridge belonging to the right side group effects

light redirection almost only for the right side primary light source 1, and every ridge belonging to the left side group effects light redirection almost only for the left side primary light source 1.

To the contrary, according to claim 13, every pair of slopes of the prismatic light element 9 (Fig. 1) or 19 (Fig. 13) effects light redirection for both primary light sources 11A and 11B because the slopes are not divided into two groups.

Furthermore, it is noted that Kurematsu et al. (Fig. 18) has no light guide plate. That is, Kurematsu et al. shows a LCD backlighting arrangement of a quite different type from the instant LCD that essentially requires a pair of light guide plates piled-up to work jointly.

Accordingly, it would not have been obvious in light of Kurematsu et al. to arrange a prismatic light control member along a second emission face of the second (upper) light guide plate.

Claims 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Okuda et al. in view of Oyama et al. and Kurematsu et al. and further in view of Ohkawa; Claims 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Okuda et al. in view of Oyama et al. and Kurematsu et al. and further in view of Arai.

Ohkawa and Arai do not overcome the above deficiencies in Okuda et al., Oyama et al. and Kurematsu et al.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 11-16-03

By: 
Michael J. Badagliacca
Registration No. 22,729

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501